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Public Hearing Testimony
February 23, 2009
Education Committee
Scott Frantz, State Senator, 36th District

Re: House Bill 6491 – An Act Concerning Longitudinal Studies of Student Achievement.

Good morning Chairman Gaffey, Chairman Fleischmann, Ranking Member Caligiuri, Ranking Member Giuliano, and members of the Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today concerning **HB 6491, An Act Concerning Longitudinal Studies Of Student Achievement.**

The Department of Education currently maintains a state-wide public school information system, which tracks individual student performance on the Connecticut Mastery Tests. Longitudinal studies represent one of the best methods because it views students over an extended period of time. Such empirical information is invaluable to education researchers and policy-makers in assessing our education system, rather than relying on just subjective measures. The data collected will help identify problems, and potentially improve performance.

HB 6491 would allow the Department of Education to provide this information to public schools, school districts, nonprofit organizations, researchers and educational policy-makers, while protecting the privacy of the students. I strongly urge passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.